

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00460 210143Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3083

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: CYPRIOT PRESS HIGHLIGHTS -- FEBRUARY 13-20, 1976

REF: NICOSIA 0425 (DTG 171619Z FEB 76)

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR THEME IN CYPRIOT PRESS WEEK FEBRUARY 13-20 WAS RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. OTHER PROMINENT SUBJECTS WERE MAKARIOS' CALL FOR PURGE OF COUP- RELATED GREEK OFFICERS AND PIKE COMMITTEE REPOR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SPECULATION ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RESIGNATION IF LEAKS THREATEN HIS EFFECTIVENESS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, PRESS MOVED FROM COMPLETE PESSIMISM AT BEGINNING WEEK TO CONSERVATIVE OPTIMISM AT END PARTICULARLY IN PRO-CLERIDES PAPERS. EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO "UNACCEPTABLE" STATE-
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 00460 210143Z

MENTS BY DENKTASH AND "COMPROMISING" POSITIONS OF

CLERIDES. ON EVE OF RESUMPTION, PRO-CLERIDES ALITHIA
FEBRUARY 16 HEADLINED STORY: "TOWARDS DEADLOCK -
DENKTASH LEAVES NO ROOM." PRO-ENOSIS MAKHI
FEBRUARY 17 ANNOUNCED "TALKS DEAD BEFORE THEY START."
WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT AT OPENING SESSION RAISED HOPES
SOMEWHAT AND FEBRUARY 18 HEADLINES RAN: "RELATIVELY
GOOD CLIMATE IN VIENNA" (PRO-LYSSARIDES' TA NEA),
"HOPES FOR PROGRESS" (MAKHI), "RAY OF HOPE" (PRO-
CLERIDES' AGHON). END OF WEEK NEWS COVERAGE CONTINUED
CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL IN WAKE OF LONG MEETING FEBRUARY 19
AND UP-BEAT COMMENTS BY SYG WALDHEIM.

3. TALKS HAVE DRAWN MINIMAL EDITORIAL TREATMENT AS
TWO LEADING PAPERS (PHILELFTHEROS, WHICH REFLECTS
MAKARIOS' POSITION, AND COMMUNIST HARAVGHI) FEBRUARY 19
INDICATED THEY WOULD AVOID EDITORIALIZING ON TALKS --
IN THE WORDS OF PHILELEGTHEROS -- "TO CONTRIBUTE TO
CREATION OF PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR TALKS." EARLIER,
PHILELFTHEROS HAD CALLED ON READERS TO COMPARE STATE-
MENTS BY CLERIDES AND DENKTASH AND THEREBY EASILY
"DETERMINE CORRECTLY REASONS WHY CYPRUS PROBLEM STILL
REMAINS DANGEROUSLY IN ABEYANCE." FEBRUARY 18 AGHON
STRESSED "GREEK SIDE WILL DEFINITELY CONDUCT LONG
STRUGGLE IF TURKS FAIL TO ADOPT CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE."
MAKHI FEBRUARY 20 WARNED OF "DANGER GREEK SIDE MIGHT
REACH AGREEMENT BY MAKING MORE CONCESSIONS" AND
"REPLACE DANGER OF DEADLOCK WITH BIGGER DANGER OF
SOLUTION BOUGHT WITH UNACCEPTABLE CONCESSIONS."

4. IN INTERVIEW WITH AUSTRIAN PAPER PUBLISHED
FEBRUARY 16 (REFTEL), MAKARIOS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT
GOG "SHOULD PUT ON TRIAL JUNTA OFFICERS WHO DECIDED
ON AND ENGINEERED JULY 1974 COUP." WHEN GOG RESPONDED
THAT TIME WAS NOT RIPE FOR SUCH TRIALS, PRESS HERE
REPORTED "SILENT DISPUTE" BETWEEN ATHENS AND NICOSIA.
PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI FEBRUARY 19 WARNED BOTH GOG
AND GOC LEST QUESTION OF TRIALS " BECOME SUBJECT OF
PARTISAN EXPLOITATION." FEBRUARY 20 TA NEA AND
HARAVGHI BOTH INSISTED THAT TRIALS SHOULD
NEVERTHELESS TAKE PLACE NOW.

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 00460 210143Z

5. GREEK CYPRIOT DAILIES FEBRUARY 13 FACTUALLY
REPORTED PUBLICATION OF PIKE COMMITTEE REPORT,
EMPHASIZING THOSE SECTIONS REFERRING TO CYPRUS AND
CIA/IOANNIDES RELATIONSHIP. HARAVGHI EDITORIALIZED
"REPORT REVEALS LITTLE IN COMPARISON WITH ALL THAT
WE CAN IMAGINE ABOUT THE DIABOLICAL ROLES OF CIA
AND KISSINGER." LOCAL PRESS GLOATED OVER REPORTS

THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER SUFFICIENTLY DISTURBED BY
REPORT'S PUBLICATION TO CONSIDER RESIGNING.
FEBRUARY 19 AGHON ANNOUNCED "HELLENISM WILL NOT LOSE
ANYTHING" THROUGH SUCH RESIGNATION. PAPER REMINDED
ITS READERS, HOWEVER, THAT "A COUNTRY'S FOREIGN
POLICY IS NOT THE EXCESSIVE WORK OF ONE MAN" BUT

RATHER REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT.
EDITORIAL CONCLUDED FROM THIS THAT U.S. POLICY COULD
NOT BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY FOLLOWING
THE RESIGNATION OF KISSINGER.

6. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS CONCENTRATED ON VIENNA
TALKS, KILLING OF TURKISH DIPLOMAT IN BEIRUT, AND
ON-GOING ASSEMBLY DEBATE ON NEW ELECTION LAW. PRESS
HAS REPORTED LENGTHY BUT RELATIVELY RESTRAINED DENKTASH
STATEMENTS OUTLINING TURKISH POSITION ON FIRST
ANNIVERSARY OF TFSC AND EVE OF TALKS; KEPT UP STEADY
DIATRIVE AGAINST MAKARIOS; AND EXPECTED THAT LITTLE
WOULD COME OUT OF TALKS, GIVEN THE GREEKS' FAILURE
TO SEE "REALITIES" INTERESTING FOOTNOTES TO PRESS
THIS WEEK WERE ARTICLES IN NEW LEFTIST WEEKLY
YENI DUZEN CALLING ON PARTIES TO COME TO NEGOTIATIONS
WITH GOOD WILL AND NOT AS VICTOR OR VANQUISHED ON
EITHER THE MILITARY OR DIPLOMATIC FIELD AND CRITICIZING
IDEA OF INDEPENDENT TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE AS A NEW
VERSION OF "PARTITIONZ BEING FOISED ON THE PEOPLE.
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